



NEWS RELEASE

NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT:
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328-2455

ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

A team of assessors from the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will arrive April 8, 2006, to examine all aspects of the North Dakota Highway Patrol's policy and procedures, administration, operations, and support services, Colonel Bryan Klipfel announced today.

Verification by the team that the North Dakota Highway Patrol meets the Commission's state-of-the-art standards is part of a voluntary process to retain accreditation – a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, Colonel Klipfel said.

As a part of the on-site assessment, agency employees and members of the community are invited to offer comments by calling 1-866-814-2004 on April 10, 2006, between the hours of 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. CST. Telephone comments are limited to 10 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with CALEA's standards. A copy of the standards is available at the North Dakota Highway Patrol Headquarters, State Capitol Building, 600 East Boulevard Avenue Dept. 504, Bismarck, ND. Local contact is Captain Gordon La France, 701-328-2455.

Anyone wishing to offer written comments about the North Dakota Highway Patrol's ability to comply with the standards for accreditation is requested to write: Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA), 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030.

"The North Dakota Highway Patrol has to comply with 349 standards in order to gain accredited status," Colonel Klipfel said. "Accreditation assures the public that the Highway Patrol is committed to the provision of services of the highest quality; that the department's policies and procedures are effective and responsive, yet fair and equitable."

The Accreditation Program Manager for the North Dakota Highway Patrol is Captain Gordon La France. He said the assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar but out-of-state agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The assessors are Team Leader Mr. Jean Marc Duguay, Ms. Nancy G. Maiden, and Mr. Brad W. Slater. Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted accredited status, Captain La France stated.

Accreditation is for three years, during which the agency must submit annual reports attesting continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

For more information regarding the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., please write the Commission at 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030; or call (800) 368-3757 or (703) 352-4225.

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